Surge and Contain Remarks
February 4, 2022

Deputy Chief Patricia Ferguson

- Last weekend, we had over 8,000 people and thousands of trucks attend demonstrations in the downtown core.
- We made significant progress in reducing this number through enforcement and patient negotiations during the week.
- We know more demonstrators plan to come and want to be very clear that they should stay home.
- Based on our experiences over the last week, we are implementing a range of tactical measures to keep Ottawa residents safe, and prevent further unlawful activity
- **We are deploying all available police resources.**
- Residents and demonstrators will see a surge in on duty officers in the downtown neighbourhoods of Centretown, Sandyhill, Lowertown, and the Byward Market.
- On the ground, this will represent two officers for every street corner to fully enforce all unlawful acts.
- Officers have received zero-tolerance enforcement directives, with full authority to pursue the strictest possible punishments for traffic violations, mischief, hate crimes, harassment, spitting, intimidation and /or menacing behaviour.
- To address incoming traffic, **we are utilizing hundreds of concrete and heavy equipment barricades to create no-**

access roadways throughout Centretown and the Byward Market.

- The City of Ottawa will share further information on this initiative later today.
- We are working to ensure flow of traffic, but if necessary we will close interprovincial bridges.
- Our negotiators have also communicated designated parking zones to demonstration organizers.
- The efforts of the Ottawa Police Service this weekend will be focused on the unlawful behaviour connected to the demonstrations, and the possible influx of demonstrators.
- The ongoing occupation of the Parliamentary Precinct remains unresolved. We are working with all policing partners, including the RCMP and OPP, to remove these vehicles as safely and quickly as possible.
- Our top priority is to bring these demonstrations to an end.
- I'll now turn it over to Deputy Chief Steve Bell who will speak more about what to anticipate this weekend, as well as our investigative actions.

Deputy Chief Steve Bell

- From the start of convoy have been gathering intelligence and evidence.
- Continue to work with RCMP and OPP to gather and disseminate real time intelligence information that support our operations.
- That intelligence is currently telling us:

- We can expect to see an increase in vehicular traffic to the downtown core beginning Saturday and increasing over the weekend, with at decline anticipated again on Monday
- We also anticipate several protestors will attend on foot to gather in the area. Our information indicates large groups of people who are both in support of the convoy efforts as well as opposed to them continuing to demonstrate in our City.
- We anticipate that these unlawful demonstrations will continue in the downtown core throughout the weekend.
- On the ground investigative teams will continue to collect and pursue all available evidence of illegal activity.
- This includes the collection of license plate numbers, first-hand accounts, social media information, and physical evidence.
- There is also currently an underreporting of some crimes by unlawful demonstrators.
- To residents: please report any unlawful behaviour you are witness to or a victim of.
- Every unlawful act, including traffic violations, will be fully pursued.
- In doing so, we are working closely with policing and intelligence partners across the country. If you commit a crime, we will investigate and find you.